

# INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

Florida Department of State ♦ Sandra B. Mortham, Secretary of State ♦ Office of International Relations ♦ February 1998

## International Day '98 - Get Ready!

The Office of International Relations has been preparing for the annual International Day in Tallahassee. This year it will be held on April 2. The day will be filled with international meetings, a luncheon, legislative and international presentations, and a reception at the Museum of Florida History.

Accommodations will be available at the Doubletree Hotel, located two blocks from the Capitol. For any additional information please contact the Office of International Relations at: (850) 414-1727.

--Audra

Romant

Intern

## Japanese Ambassador to visit Miami

Mr. Kunihiro Saito, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, will be visiting Miami on February 26. The *Japan Society of South Florida* and the *Japan Business Association* is hosting the presentation. The theme for the event is "Japan in transition".



The Japanese Consulate in Miami is also preparing for the upcoming

## Chinese New Year Celebration "Guo Nian"

The Chinese New Year is celebrated every spring with firecrackers and beautiful displays of color. This year is the Year of the Tiger and the Chinese year 4696. The date of the actual new year differs every year since it depends on the lunar calendar. This year the date fell on Wednesday, January 28.

The Spring Festival, as it is also commonly known, was celebrated this year in Coral Gables with a gala event hosted jointly by *People to People International* and the *Chinese Cultural Foundation*. The event included a reception, a fourteen-course dinner, and a program featuring acrobatics, dancing, and traditional Chinese music. The event, on Feb. 7, will certainly be an enjoyable start to the new year.

--Ingrid Anderson

Intern



## Office Website Update

The Office of International Relations' Internet website is due for an update this month! Look us up at:  
[www.dos.state.fl.us/oir/index.html](http://www.dos.state.fl.us/oir/index.html)

## Sister Cities International Conference

This year's Sister Cities International Annual Conference is scheduled for Thursday July 30 through Saturday August 1 in Miami. The program for this year's event includes various informative workshops and seminars as well as the Western Hemispheric Forum. This forum is the fourth of these historic forums and will deal with "key factors in the development of Cities of the Western Hemisphere". The Forum itself will take place the day before the Conference on July 29. If you are interested in attending this exciting event, the postmark deadline for advance registration is June 26, 1998. Please feel free to contact Sharon Seifert-Gagner, Director, Conferences & Meetings at (703) 836-3535 ext. 102 or email her at [sgagner@sister-cities.org](mailto:sgagner@sister-cities.org).

--Ingrid

Anderson

Intern

## Tel-mond, Israel Sister Cities Trip

This March 5 a delegation from the *Sarasota Sister Cities Association* will arrive in Israel to further establish their ties of friendship with the city of Tel-Mond. The group expects to meet with Israeli dignitaries and members of the American Embassy. The delegation will also travel and participate in several cultural activities there.